The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Life is of little value unless it is consecrated by duty.—Samuel Smiles.

MINERS' NATION-WIDE RELIEF IS URGENT NEED

The country would be startled if a city of 750,000 population was without food, clothing and decent shelter.

The thought that three-quarters of a million men, women and children faced a winter of starvation and cold would sting the popular conscience.

A nation-wide cry for a special session of Congress would be raised. Newspapers would feature harrowing tales of misery. Statesmen and politicians would thunder on the need for relief. Every organization and individual would respond to the universal appeal.

The destitution of 750,000 persons is not a picture of fancy. It exists today. Miners and their dependents, stretched across several states, are facing a winter housed in shacks and crude barracks. The miners have been on strike for eight months. They need food, clothing and supplies.

To say that these miners should be absorbed in other industries that are already overcrowded is but to mock men who have all the powers of government arrayed against them in a struggle for a living wage. They have been evicted, enjoined, clubbed and driven from company towns.

These men, women and children must be cared for. Trade unionists and sympathizers in hundreds of localities are sending food and supplies to strike areas, but this is not enough to sustain three-quarters of a million human beings.

The relief must be extended. Every city and town should organize aid committees. The miners' wrongs and the story of the powers that would enslave them must be told.

A few energetic spirits in each locality can start this movement that must continue until victory is won.

It is too much to ask the miners, their women and children to wage a single-handed fight against an absolutism that will extend its attack at the first opportunity.

Other workers will feel the iron heel if the miners are starved into submission by industrial and financial oligarchs, by high government officials who aid the coal owners by confusing the issue, by injunction judges and by a feudal army that is legalized by the state and controlled by the employers.

The miners' stand is more than a struggle for wages. It has evolved into a struggle between those who would use government to entrench their absolutism and those who believe in democracy.

The miners and their dependents are in the first line of this struggle. They can be fed and cared for if every trade unionist and sympathizer lends a hand.

Send all money for this cause to Frank Morrison, A. F. of L. secretary, Washington, D. C.

Clothing, food, shoes and other supplies should be forwarded to William Hargest, 408 Columbia Building, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Rockefeller Caused Colorado Strike; Miners Wronged, Says Clergyman

Denver, Dec. 3.—The Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, controlled by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., is blamed for the I. W. W. strike and civil war in this State by Rev. A. A. Heist, pastor of Grace Community Church and secretary of the Colorado Conference of the Methodist Church.

The Rockefeller corporation was charged with dominating the industrial policy of this State and forcing the strike by autocratic methods.

"No fair-minded man will accuse John D. Rockefeller, Jr., of personally paying our State police to needlessly slaughter miners, as they seem to have done at the Columbine mine, Monday morning," said Rev. Heist in a public statement. "However, a denial of such a charge does not clear the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company or Mr. Rockefeller, who is said to be a controlling stockholder, of all moral responsibility for what actually took place.

"The Colorado Fuel and Iron Company dominates the industrial policy of our State, as it has in the past. Disregard for the labor of the churches asking for the right of the employes to deal collectively, through representatives of their own choosing, led to the massacre of 1914.

"Abrogration of the Jacksonville scale, disregard of the calling of men for check weighmen, impossible working conditions and an autocratic attitude toward labor are factors leading to the present strike, from which the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company cannot escape responsibility.

"Mr. Rockefeller must explain the gradual displacement of older miners by Mexicans, now used as the basis of an outcry against foreigners. Mr. Rockefeller himself brought to our State, a foreigner, Mr. King, to force the unionization of labor union and to draft for the State a system of industrial laws which now militate against the worker.

"To simply deny foolish statements about his direct responsibility for the Columbine slaughter will not absolve Mr. Rockefeller from all guilt or satisfy the aroused Christian conscience of America."

The company "union" of Rockefeller's Colorado Fuel and Iron Company is the first of its kind in this country. The collapse of this would-be substitute for trade unionism is apparent.

Wages are lower than in unionized fields of near-by States. This caused dissatisfaction, which the companies tried to allay by petty increases while continuing their policy of robbing employes by company men who weighed the coal. It is charged that the coal owners encouraged I. W. W.'s to come into the State so they could call on authorities to silence objections to their autocratic rule.

The State Federation of Labor has repeatedly urged a settlement. In a statement signed by officials, the coal companies are criticized for their treatment of employes, the State Industrial Commission is charged with playing politics and the I. W. W.'s are charged with being more interested in fomenting a revolutionary spirit to the present strife, from which the

FINANCIERS USE OLD TRICK

What would happen if workers were discovered "padding" their living costs so that increased wages would be justified?

That's what hydro-electric power companies are doing, according to the Federal Power Commission.

By a falsification of costs and consequent boosting of valuation these corporations will claim higher rates are justified.

In urging a check-up on construction costs, the commission said:

"Such audits as the commission has been able to make have disclosed in several instances what appears to be gross and deliberate overcharge of investment amounting in some cases to charges made by holding companies to their subsidiaries under license."

The power companies are using the same methods employed by railroads. The latter are involved in a contest with the government over a valuation dispute that totals billions of dollars.

If the courts uphold the railroads' claim, the public will be called upon to pay higher rates.

WILL COAL OWNERS LEARN?

The British coal industry should be an object lesson to American coal owners, industrialists and financiers and their political agents who favor mine wage reductions.

When the British miners lost last year's strike, wages were reduced and Parliament extended the work day from seven to eight hours. The coal owners were in complete control and began to dump their cheaply mined product onto European markets. They received a jolt, however, when France, their best customer, placed an embargo on their output.

Conditions in England have been going from bad to worse. More than 250,000 miners are without work and unemployment has increased beyond any year in the recorded history of the industry.

The Minister of Health reports that in September 344,000 persons received poor law relief in the 78 areas in England and Wales in which coal mining is an important industry. This poor law relief means pauperization. It does not refer to out-of-work benefits.

The British situation can be considered with profit by those in America who would smash the miners' union and establish an industrial absolutism.

EMPLOYERS USE I. W. W. TO ENRAGE POPULACE

Phoenix, Ariz., Dec. 3.—The charge that Colorado coal owners imported I. W. W.'s into that state does not surprise Arizona trade unionists, who recall similar methods by Arizona copper magnates.

Nine years ago these employers were challenged to favor a public inquiry into the charge that they imported I. W. W.'s.

The challenge was made by H. S. McCluskey of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers' Union and a member of the State Council of Defense at a meeting held in the office of Governor Hunt to discuss I. W. W. activities. The meeting was attended by mine managers and trade union officials. McCluskey said he had information that justified the statement that Arizona corporations transported the revolutionists into this state. He called on one of the mine managers, who was a member of the State Council of Defense, to make a motion asking that the War Labor Board hold hearings and consider affidavits that he (McCluskey) would submit. The offer was declined.

The trade unionist then invited the mine managers present to instruct their representatives on the executive board of the Council of Defense to make such a motion. All refused.

This incident occurred a few months after 1,150 workers were driven from Bisbee by an armed mob. A committee appointed by the Arizona State Federation of Labor was refused admission to Bisbee to investigate. Federal officials dismissed as baseless charges against the mob, who were led by business men and officials of copper companies.

The deported workers were discussing wage increases, and the copper companies feared the old trick of importing the I. W. W.'s, whose inflammatory talk was seized upon as an excuse for mob action.

INJUNCTION MISUSE HARMFUL TO COURTS

Washington, Dec. 3.—The increasing issuance of labor injunctions "may lead to loss of confidence, the result of disrespect for the courts," said Secretary of Labor Davis, in a statement issued by the Department of Labor.

The cabinet official said the Clayton amendments to the Sherman anti-trust law should be clarified by Congress, that "there be no cause, real or apparent, for the belief that controversies in labor disputes are being determined through judicial legislation.

"In the happy contact which I am continually having with the great body of the American working people, I have observed a recurrence of the spirit of restlessness over what they seem to think is the too frequent use of the injunction.

"It was the belief of labor that the enactment of the Clayton amendments of 1914 to the Sherman anti-trust law would restrict the use of the injunction. Labor organizations are of the opinion that the measure is not being given the liberal and effectual interpretation by our courts which Congress intended and that on that account its value as a remedial measure for the redress of grievances is incomplete. The courts have not been in general accord in construing these important and far-reaching provisions."

WORKER NOT LIMITED TO GET COMPENSATION

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 3.—The State Supreme Court has ruled that an injured worker is not limited to the record of testimony before the State Industrial Commission when he appeals to the court from an award by the Commission.

The decision was made in the case of Earnest Hillshorst, an employe of the Cincinnati Foundry Company, to whom compensation was denied by the commission. He appealed to the Common Pleas Court of Hamilton County and in the trial called two witnesses in addition to the record of the commission, over the objection of the commission.

The common pleas and appellate courts awarded Hilshorst $767 compensation and the commission appealed to the State Supreme Court on the ground that Section 1465-90 of the General Code provides that on appeal from the commission the right of the claimant to compensation "shall be determined upon the evidence contained in said record and no other evidence."

The Supreme Court held this section conflicts with another law, which says: "The claimant shall be entitled to a trial in the ordinary way" and "be entitled to a jury if he demands it."

Where different provisions of an act are in conflict that provision which is most in harmony with the fundamental purpose of the statute must prevail, said the court.

UPHOLSTERERS UNITE

Grand Rapids, Mich., Dec. 3.—Upholsterers in this city organized and are affiliated to the trade union movement.

LARGE INCOME TAX URGED IN BRITAIN

London, England, Dec. 3.—The Tory Party and other Conservatives are worried over the surtax proposal advanced by the British Labor Party, and this question will be a feature in the next general election.

The surtax would only be imposed upon "income derived from the ownership of property and investments, with exemption of the first £500 per annum of such income."

Opponents allege the tax "will fall on the artisan investor as well as the rich man." The workers are conducting an educational campaign against this confusing tactic.

The persons subject to the surtax are those who have more than £500 a year unearned income. If their income is "earned" income, such as in business or the professions, they are exempt, regardless of the size of income.

The "artisan investor" will hardly be fooled by the Tory propaganda when it is recalled that it requires a capital of £10,000 (at an average interest rate of 5 per cent) to produce a yearly income of £500.

HIGHER FARE INVOLVED IN INJUNCTION DEMAND

New York, Dec. 3.—An increased car fare is involved in the Interborough Rapid Tragsit Company's demand for a sweeping injunction against organized labor and every one else from interfering with its company "union" and yellow dog.

"If the Interborough can hold its company 'union' it has a mass of workers whom it can wield in its political battles," said Edward McGrady, A. F. of L. representative.

MEN IN HIGH PLACES ARE NATIONAL MENACE

Boston, Dec. 3.—Men of the Sinclair-Burns type are the outstanding menace to the nation's well being, said Senator Nye of North Dakota in an address at the Ford Hall Forum.

The senator said the oil scandal is the natural culmination of a system under which, he contended, the wealthy buy favors of government by liberal contributions to the two major political parties during national campaigns.

Other fruits of the system, he said, were "the fixing of tax bills" in favor of wealth and the protection of American dollars abroad by sending armed forces in Nicaragua, Mexico and China.

"These and other developments ought to thoroughly awaken Americans to the threat being made against them," Senator Nye added, "and cause them to accept the challenge which wealth is offering every day. An indignant people will create an indignant Congress and an administration which will turn upon this power which grips our economic and political life."

"REDS" ROUNDED UP IN LIBEL CAMPAIGN

New York, Dec. 3.—Magistrate Brodsky has notified Communists they must justify their newspaper attacks on Morris Sigman, president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Sigman is suing the reds for criminal libel. During the recent garment strike they pictured the unionist as rolling in wealth and using the organization to further his private ends.

"When you take a man's reputation, you take his good name, something that is more valuable than everything in the world," the magistrate informed the reds. "When you make such an attack as broadly as you did, you must justify as broadly and as widely as the attack is made, and unless you can do that here I shall hold you."

WANT RETIREMENT LAW APPLIED TO CANAL ZONE

Washington, Dec. 3.—Trade unionists in the Canal Zone will ask this Congress to include them in the Federal Retirement law. They are represented by E. L. Emery, president Local No. 5, Steam and Operating Engineers of the Canal Zone, who is in Washington conferring with members of Congress and the A. F. of L. officials. Mr. Emery says he has met with much encouragement.

WM. WALKER PASSES ON

Philadelphia, Dec. 3.—William T. S. Walker died in this city after a long illness. He was International president of the Operative Plasterers and Cement Finishers' International Association in 1902.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN AID STRIKING MINERS

Toledo, Ohio, Dec. 3.—Two carloads of clothing and foodstuffs for striking miners in southern Ohio were collected and forwarded by the City Federation of Parents and Teachers' Association of this city. The effort was sponsored by the state organization of parents and teachers. The public schools were used as centers for the collections. More than 500 pairs of new shoes, 150 cartons of canned foodstuffs and a large amount of toys were included in the shipment.

Women from every section of the city aided this humane movement.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABOVE PROFIT; PROPERTY CONCEPT DEGRADES

By Commission on Christianity and Social Problems of the Evangelical Synod of North America

Human need, human rights and human welfare transcend property rights and profits on investments.

While industry must produce some profit in order to be self-sustaining, the spirit of Jesus Christ in industry demands that production for use rather than for profit be the controlling aim.

Since labor is the product of a human personality fashioned in the image of the Creator, it is invested with a dignity and value which entitles it to the highest respect. To regard labor as a commodity, to be bought and sold merely according to the law of supply and demand is incompatible with Christian principles and with human rights and welfare. The right to use property as an inevitable corollary of the inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

AGAIN: WHO GOT THE MONEY?

From the New York World

Nearly three years have elapsed since the public learned that Messrs. Sinclair, Blackmer, Stewart and O'Neil met one day in New York, organized the dummy "Continental Trading Company," arranged to buy 33,000,000 barrels of oil at $1.50 a barrel and on the same day resold it to their own companies at $1.75 a barrel.

The Supreme Court of the United States is authority for the statement that this dummy Continental Company was created for some illegitimate purpose."

The Supreme Court is authority for the statement that this dummy company made "more than $3,000,000" from this deal.

The Supreme Court is authority for the statement that $230,500 of this money went to "a faithless public officer," Albert B. Fall.

What happened to the rest of it? What happened to the $2,700,000 which is still unexplained? Who got this money?

Mr. Owen J. Roberts, special counsel for the Government, expresses himself to The World's Bureau in Washington as surprised that none of the stockholders in the Blackmer, O'Neil and Stewart companies, apparently victimized in the Continental deal, has ever shown resentment enough to bring suit to demand an accounting.

Blackmer's company was the Midwest Refining Company. O'Neil's company was the Prairie Oil and Gas. Stewart's company was the Standard Oil of Indiana.

The stockholders of these companies include hundreds of prominent and responsible business men, presumably public-spirited, presumably averse to being mulcted.

For nearly three years these men have maintained silence in the face of the disclosures of the Continental deal. They are silent now, at a moment when the interest of the government is once more attempting to get to the bottom of this deal.

Is there no man or group of these stockholders ready to demand an accounting? Is there no man ready to defend the Government's interest in the profits of a fake corporation which the Supreme Court of the United States declares to have contributed no "financing or effort of any kind"?

*It is high time to poll these companies in a search for one man of public spirit.

It is high time to demand that if no such man can be found Congress go into this affair with a new investigating committee and go into it to the bottom.

Equity Power Should Be Defined; Lawmakers Blamed For Injunction

Washington, Dec. 3.—The failure of the lawmaking branch of government to define and limit equity jurisdiction is responsible for the misuse of the injunction in labor disputes, says Andrew Furuseth, president International Seamen's Union, writing in American Federationist, current issue, on "Equity Power and Its Abuse."

"The idea, altogether too prevalent, that the fault is with the judiciary alone, is not based on fact," said Mr. Furuseth. "The legislative branch of the government, where it has undertaken to enforce laws by the use of equity power in lieu of the application of common law principles, should be made to carry the full burden of its responsibility. It will not do to blame the courts for applying the law as it is written and using the power with which it is endowed by the legislative branch.

"It will not do to blame the courts for a continued extension of the use of the equity power, when the legislative branch is equally guilty and will remain so if it shall fail to so define and limit the equity jurisdiction and the use of the equity power that this shall again become a government by law.

"We have escaped from despotic government by the king. Are we going to permit the growing up of a despotic government by the judges?

"The despotism of one in this sense can be no better than the despotism of another. If we are to preserve government of the people, by the people and for the people, any usurpation by the judiciary must be as sternly resisted as usurpation by the executive, and the legislative branch of government must be made to feel the heavy hand of the people where it fails to protect the people from either."

MUSCLE SHOALS MAKES PROFIT DIRECTED BY ARMY ENGINEERS

Washington, Dec. 3.—Muscle Shoals, operated by army engineers, will earn approximately $982,000 this year, or nearly $300,000 more than the best bid for private lease and operation.

Private interests offered $600,000 and the bid was recommended by a congressional committee to the last Congress. The rental would increase after six years. The average yearly payment for the entire 50 years of the lease would be $1,676,000.

Muscle Shoals will be a major issue at this session of Congress. Senator Norris will lead the fight for popular retention of this priceless natural resource whose power can be distributed to several States. At the present time power is sold to the Alabama Power Company for one-fifth to two-fifths of a cent a kilowatt hour.

Opponents of popular control of Muscle Shoals claim this would put the entire question into politics, but to this charge Senator Norris says:

"The entire matter is already in politics. It has always been in politics. Every privately owned public utility in the world is actively engaged in politics. The power trust mixes into politics in the election of a board of aldermen in the smallest village in the country. It is in politics in the election of every member of the House of Representatives and every Senator. It contributes liberally to every presidential election. And it never expends a cent but what it expects to get back, and actually does get back with enormous profit on the investment.

"In the recent fight over the Boulder Dam bill in the Senate, it is estimated that the power trust spent more than $200,000. Telegrams came to many Senators by the hundreds and thousands that are 2,000 miles away from the site of Boulder Dam. They came from representatives of the power trust in little hamlets in Iowa, in Nebraska, in Kansas, and when these men talk about getting the matter into politics they are only afraid that it will get out of politics. From my study of the question I believe the only way to keep the public utility matter out of politics is to take it over by the government, either of the nation, the state or the municipality."

BUSINESS' TAX PLAN HELD TO BE "ABSURD"

Washington, Dec. 3.—Demand for a $400,000,000 tax reduction by the United States Chamber of Commerce seems to put these "hard-headed" business men in an awkward position.

The chamber's views on public questions are usually treated as gospel truth, but this is not true in the present instance. The White House, it is said, looks upon the demand as "absurd," in view of the chamber's stand for increased governmental expenditures.

Congressman Green, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, says that the business men get the facts before they go on record.

The feature of the controversy is that this is the first time the views of the chamber have been challenged.

RACE TRACK METHODS USED TO FORCE SPEED

Minneapolis, Dec. 3.—Strikebreakers at the plant of the Brooks Parlor Furniture Company are induced to speed up their own motor to speed themselves up. The company has inveigled the "free and independents" into betting amounts ranging up to $5 with one another on who can complete the upholstering of a piece of furniture.

Organized upholsterers at this plant have been on strike 14 weeks.

BRUTAL COAL BARONS STOP RED CROSS AID

Des Moines, Dec. 3.—Coal owners have refused to sign the recent agreement that has been accepted by employers in this industry in Iowa stopped Red Cross relief to suffering women and children, according to officials of the State Federation of Labor.

In their state-wide appeal to aid these miners and their dependents, the Federation officials say:

"The state chapter of Red Cross started a campaign to assist men, women and children who are destitute and in distances in the mining communities of Appanoose and Monroe counties. The coal operators protested to the National Red Cross who sent a representative to Iowa who forced the state chapter that they could not assist the miners' families who were destitute. The chapter refused to allow the Red Cross agencies in the above-mentioned counties to handle or distribute food or clothing sent in by outside agencies."

"EQUAL RIGHTS" PLAN WOULD VOID STATUTES

Washington, Dec. 3.—With a craftsmanship worthy of professional promoters, the National Women's Party is staging its campaign for this amendment to the Federal Constitution: "Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

The proposal is intended to correct many inequalities that women are subjected to in various states. These include control of children and control of their own property. The effect of the amendment, however, would be to invalidate all legislation intended to protect women in industry. Organized labor is opposed to the amendment. The Women's Party can secure relief from inequalities through state legislatures. This policy will be supported by labor and it will not jeopardize the whole structure of legislation for women wage earners.

ITALY IS PRISON HOUSE; ALL LIBERTY DESTROYED

London, England, Dec. 3.—Mussolini has destroyed every liberty of the Italian people and that country is a prison where life is intolerable, said former Premier Nitti of Italy, speaking before the War Danger Conference here. Premier Nitti fled to France when Mussolini seized control of Italy, and before he made it impossible for citizens to leave.

"No free man can live in Italy and an immoral law prevents every Italian citizen, under pain of fine and imprisonment, from going to a foreign country," said the former premier.

MANY ISSUES FACE CONGRESS; STORMY SESSION PREDICTED

Washington, Dec. 3.—The first session of the Seventieth Congress will convene December 5. Next year's presidential election, and the election of all members of the House and one-third of the Senate, together with many important questions, will make this session an important one.

Leading issues include farm relief, a ship subsidy, disputed elections of Senators Vare of Pennsylvania and Smith of Illinois, disposition of Muscle Shoals, building of Boulder Dam, tax reduction, the tariff and flood control.

Organized labor will urge repeal of anti-trust laws and the defining of equity jurisdiction. Other remedial laws will also be urged. A ship subsidy will be opposed.

A powerful independent bloc in the Senate will wield a strong influence because of the precarious situation the administration finds itself in. On paper, the Republicans have 47 members, but this includes insurgents senators who can not be held in line by party appeals. If Messrs. Vare and Smith are seated they will give the Republicans 49 votes—provided all these can be depended upon. The Democrats have 46 members, including several independents.

Senator Shipstead of Minnesota is the one Farmer-Labor Party member.

He is opposed to the labor injunction and will submit a bill he introduced in the last Congress to correct this abuse. This bill provides that equity courts shall have jurisdiction to protect property when there is no remedy at law, "and for the purpose of determining such jurisdiction nothing shall be held to be property unless it is tangible and transferable."

If such a bill were enacted into law equity courts would not have the right to confuse personal rights with property rights and judges would be debarred from issuing orders and setting up government by one man where a plaintiff has other legal remedies.

Farmers Object To Trickery; Refuse To Accept Fake Relief

Washington, Dec. 3.—One section of McNary-Haugen farm bill advocates oppose compromise on the ground that abandonment of the principle will offer but temporary relief, and that the question will have to be fought over again.

These opponents of the bill are their constituents are in favor of openly acknowledging defeat, rather than accepting a fake that will permit office seekers to go into the next campaign with claims of "What I did for the farmer."

Under the equalization plan the tariff would be used to raise wheat prices. This would mean the world price for wheat. Under the McNary-Haugen bill the 42 cent tariff on wheat would be added to the Liverpool price for wheat sold in this country, less 7 or 8 cents a bushel that would be deducted from each bushel and would be added to the price farmers receive for their wheat in the world markets.

The equalization plan can best be understood by assuming that the total annual wheat output of American farmers is 100 bushels, of which 10 bushels are exported. If the Liverpool price is $1 a bushel, the American tariff of 42 cents a bushel would be added to the 90 bushels sold in the domestic market, and also pay costs for operating the plan. Wheat elevators and cooperative selling agencies would deduct the 8 cents a bushel and turn this amount over to the proper agency that would also keep a record of the wheat importations.

Compromises, known as the debenture plan, and a proposed government corporation with a capital of $300,000,000 to buy surplus wheat, are also suggested. The latter plan is favored, it is said, by the administration.

The debenture plan provides that the government shall issue certificates in an amount equal to the difference between the domestic and the world price of wheat. These certificates, or debentures, would be sold to business men, who would turn them into the United States Treasury in payment on the tariff for goods imported.